



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

February 1, 2005

News Release

ICE FUGITIVE OPERATIONS TEAM ARRESTS PAKISTANI

FUGITIVE AT LARGE SINCE MARCH 2004

ATLANTA—A 32-year-old citizen of Pakistan wanted since 2004 for violating the terms of his visa was arrested here Wednesday morning by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers of the Fugitive Operations task force.

Sulam Sidhwani was admitted into the country in 1999 on B-2 visitors visa.

Sidwani was detained in 2003 after appearing at the Memphis ICE office to be registered in the National Security Entry Exit Registration System (NSEERS).

An immigration judge found Sidwani ineligible for any form of relief and granted him voluntary departure on March 1, 2004.

Sidwani ignored the judge's order, failed to depart, and has been in hiding since then.

"ICE is committed to restoring integrity to this country's immigration system," said John Mata, Atlanta's field office director for detention and removal. "We will continue to identify, arrest, and remove fugitives who blatantly disregard our laws."

Sidwani is in ICE custody at the Tensas Parish Jail in Tensas, Louisiana awaiting removal from the country.

ICE's National Fugitive Operation Program (NFOP) was established on Feb. 25, 2002, making the apprehension of absconders, or fugitives, a priority, within the Department of Homeland Security. The primary mission of NFOP is to identify, locate, apprehend, process, and remove fugitive aliens from the United States.

Since the beginning of fiscal year 05, ICE's Atlanta Fugitive Operations task force has arrested 305 fugitives who had been ordered to depart the country, but failed to comply.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.